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8-27-2001

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "08/27/2001 - Latino Heritage Celebration.pdf" (2001). 2001. 147.  
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01-200

August 27, 2001

For Immediate Release:

EIU GEARS UP FOR LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION 2001

CHARLESTON -- Tickets will go on sale Monday, Sept. 3, for Eastern Illinois University's annual Latino Heritage Banquet, a highlight of Latino Heritage Celebration 2001.

Tickets for the event, set to take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children and EIU students with a Panther Card ID. They may be purchased between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays through Monday, Sept. 10, at the EIU University Union ticket office, located on the second floor of the building's west wing.

This year's banquet, which will take place in the Union's Grand Ballroom, will feature a variety of Latino recipes including rice and beans, Taino chicken (a Puerto Rican dish), Brazilian fish stew, vegetable dishes from several different Latino countries and a variety of desserts. A cash bar will be available, and Latino music will be provided via a disc jockey. Lisa Terry-Avíos, a poet and freelance writer for "Hispanic" magazine, will be in attendance as the after-dinner speaker.

Eastern's Latino Heritage Celebration 2001, a month-long festival spearheaded

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## LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION 2001

by the Office of Minority Affairs, seeks to remind university students and the general public of the many contributions that Latinos, past and present, have been responsible for.

This year's festivities officially begin with the movie, "Girl Fight," to be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, in the University Ballroom, also located in the University Union. A 2000 Sundance Film Festival award winner, "Girl Fight" stars Michelle Rodriguez as Diana Guzman, "a tough teenager with a violent streak who turns to the boxing ring to find respect, love and challenge." Admission to this event stands at \$2 or free to EIU students with ID.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, Laura Fuentes and Calicanto will bring their rhythmic sounds to the Grand Ballroom. Founded by Fuentes in 1996, the Calicanto project blends Latin diversity and heritage with music. One or more outstanding Latino artists from Chile, Puerto Rico, Spain or Mexico join the core group of Fuentes and Pedro Villagra during each of their concerts. Admission is \$3 or free to Eastern students with ID.

Comedian Greg Giraldo, star of ABC's "Common Law," will entertain at 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, in 7th Street Underground, located in the University Union's lower level, east side. Giraldo, whose act has been praised by "The New York Times," has also appeared on "Politically Incorrect" with Bill Maher. He has been voted one of the 40 most interesting people on television by "People Magazine," and will make his feature film debut later this year in "Game Day." Admission to see Giraldo in performance is \$2 or free to Eastern students with ID.

Also on Latino Heritage Celebration 2001's agenda are feature films "For Love and Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story," starring Andy Garcia, and "Romero," starring Raul Julia. They will be shown in the Coleman Hall Auditorium, room 1220, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18 and 25, respectively. Admission is free for all.

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LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION 2001

As part of the celebration's lecture series, political activist Roy Bourgeois will present an address at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, in Buzzard Auditorium. Bourgeois, director of the School of Americas Watch, remains an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. Admission is free and open to the public.

Karen Taylor, EIU assistant professor of Spanish, will present a lecture titled, "Isabel Allende: New Directions," at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the University Union's Sullivan Room. Allende, one of today's most famous Latin-American authors, has written many novels including, "The House of Spirits" and "A Portrait in Sepia." Taylor's lecture will emphasize Allende's blend of the history and culture of her native Chile with her new life in California. Admission to this event is free, also.

Latino Heritage Celebration 2001 will feature additional events during the month of October. Details will be announced as they become available.

For information on any celebration event, please contact Isabel Castro, celebration coordinator, at (217) 581-7401; Vicki Woodard or Chris Banocy, EIU Office of Media Relations, at (217) 581-7650; or visit the Latino Heritage Celebration 2001 Web site at <http://www.eiu.edu/~minoraff/page7.htm>.